



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 24, 2014

Testimony In Favor of
HB 5126
AAC an Agreement among the States to Elect the
President of the United States by National Popular Vote

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Election of the President in the U.S. is a flawed system which, among other faults, can elect a president who receives less than a majority of the votes cast. In fact, it has 4 times.

With only a few electoral votes, Connecticut is ignored by both candidates election after election after election. We are, in every sense of the word, irrelevant to the final result.

The preferred fix is to enact a national constitutional amendment. This is not a reasonable expectation given the state of national politics.

The next best solution is that proposed as the National Popular Vote, requiring that a coalition of states with a combined majority of at least half of all electoral votes embrace it.

It is in the national public interest, as well as the interests of the voters of Connecticut, to subscribe to the NPV.

Passage of the NPV is a piece of the national Sierra Club Democracy Initiative. Both national and the Connecticut state chapter endorse HB 5126, and recommend its passage this session.

To protect our environment, we first have to protect our democracy.